

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

detecting an alert event on a client device;

forming a platform-independent alert packet representing the alert event;

transmitting the alert packet to an alert proxy external to the client device;

receiving automatically a hardware-specific data control packet ~~a platform-independent alert packet containing hardware control data~~ from ~~an~~ the alert proxy in response to the transmission of the alert packet, the data control packet comprising one or more specified control operations to be performed on the client device; ~~external to a client device the alert packet further containing an event type;~~

~~parsing the alert packet to determine specified control operations to be performed on the client device;~~

determining a current operating state of said client device;

determining whether execution of said specified control operations are permitted while said client device is in said determined operating state; and

executing said specified control operations if said execution has been determined to be permitted.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~receiving externally provided~~ the one or more specified control operations includes receiving a system reset operation.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~receiving externally provided~~ the one or more specified control operations includes receiving a system power operation.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said current operating state of said client device is determined by inspecting at least one status register on said client.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said control operations are permitted while said client device is in a system hung state.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~said externally provided control operations are received via a network data packet~~ the hardware-specific data control packet is encapsulated according to a remote management and control protocol (RMCP).

8 – 16. (Canceled)

17 – 23. (Withdrawn)

24 – 26. (Canceled)

27. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a sensor to sense events in the apparatus;

an alert hardware device coupled to the sensor to detect an alert event sensed by the sensor and to form a platform-independent alert packet representing the alert event; and

a network controller to transmit the alert packet to an alert proxy that is external to the apparatus and to automatically receive a hardware-specific data control packet from the alert proxy in response to the transmission of the alert packet, the data control packet comprising one or more specified control operations to be performed on the apparatus.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the one or more specified\_control operations includes receiving a system reset operation.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the one or more specified\_control operations includes receiving a system power operation.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said current operating state of said client device is determined by inspecting at least one status register on said client.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said control operations are permitted while said client device is in a system hung state.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the hardware-specific data control packet is encapsulated according to a remote management and control protocol (RMCP).